

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

RSC-01 L-02 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 /062 W

----- 112287

P R 311400Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8243

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 0196

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, FI, VS

SUBJ: MEETING WITH FINNISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC  
PARTY CHAIRMAN PAASIO ON PRG ISSUE

REF: (A) STATE 20502 (B) HELSINKI 185 (C) HELSINKI 187  
(D) HELSINKI 166 (E) SAIGON 913 (NOTAL)

1. IN ADDITION TO REPRESENTATION AMBASSADOR MADE  
TO FOREIGN MINISTER KARJALAINEN ON PRG ISSUE JAN 30  
(REF B) ON DEPT'S INSTRUCTION (REF A), EMBASSY  
DECIDED MAKE DIRECT APPROACH LEADERSHIP AT SDP,  
WHICH PREDOMINANT MEMBER OF AND PRESUMED MAJOR  
PRO-PRG FORCE IN COALITION GOVERNMENT.

2. EMBASSY DECIDED BEST APPROACH WAS TO UTILIZE  
RELATIONS BUILT UP OVER PAST YEAR WITH SOCIAL  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SDP) CHAIRMAN, AND FORMER  
PRIME MINISTER, RAFAEL PAASIO -- WHO IS BOTH THE  
LEADER OF SDP AND IDENTIFIED WITH ITS CENTER-TO-  
RIGHT FACTION. (SDP SECRETARY GENERAL AND PRESENT  
PRIME MINISTER SORSA HAS CANCELED HIS ATTENDANCE  
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AT NORDIC PM'S MEETING IN OSLO DUE TO FLU, AND

WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN AVAILABLE IN EITHER OF HIS CAPACITIES IN ANY CASE).

3. POLOFF THEREFORE CALLED ON CHAIRMAN PAASIO, WHO ASSISTED BY SDP INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY VIEMERO. AFTER THANKING PAASIO FOR OPPORTUNITY PRESENT USG CONCERN AND VIEWS ON PRG ISSUE, UNDER OUR "AGREEMENT" WITH SDP TO CARRY ON DIALOGUE ON QUESTIONS RELATED TO US-FINNISH RELATIONS, POLOFF FIRST OUTLINED TO PAASIO SPECIFIC URGENT USG CONCERN ABOUT QUESTION PRG PARTICIPATION IN LOW CONFERENCE, POINTING OUT THAT MATTER ALREADY DECIDED LAST YEAR, PRG NOT IN ANY WAY QUALIFIED AS GOVERNMENT, AND PARTICULARLY DID NOT QUALIFY FOR PARTICIPATION IN LOW CONFERENCE.

4. POLOFF THEN EMPHASIZED GREAT IMPORTANCE USG ATTACHES TO QUESTION OF PRG STATUS IN GENERAL, REITERATED FACT THAT PRG HAS NONE OF NECESSARY ATTRIBUTES OF GOVT, AND POINTED OUT THAT ANY SUPPORT OF PRG WOULD BE ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND IN VIEW OF RECENT LARGE SCALE MILITARY ACTION BY DRV/PRG.

5. POLOFF THEN POINTED OUT TO PAASIO THAT USG HAD ALREADY CONSIDERED GOF RECOGNITION OF HANOI BUT NOT SAIGON AS UNBALANCED APPLICATION OF FINNISH NEUTRALITY POLICY, AND WOULD CONSIDER GOF SUPPORT OF PRG EVEN MORE UNBALANCED, ADDING THAT SUCH WOULD ALSO SEEM TO BE IN CONTRADICTION WITH FINLAND'S DECLARED POLICY OF STAYING OUT OF BIG POWER QUARRELS.

6. POLOFF TOLD PAASIO THAT ALTHOUGH AMBASSADOR HAD ALREADY MADE FORMAL REPRESENTATION ON MATTER TO FOREIGN MINISTER, EMBASSY ALSO WANTED CALL MATTER TO ATTENTION OF SDP, SINCE SDP LEADING MEMBER COALITION GOVT AND GOVT WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE FINNISH POSITION. POLOFF SAID HE REALIZED THERE GROUPS WITHIN SDP WHO CALLING FOR SUPPORT OF PRG, BUT EXPRESSED SURPRISE AND CONSTERNATION ABOUT CONFIDENTIAL

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PRO-PRG EDITORIAL IN MAIN SDP ORGAN DEMARI ON JAN 30 (REF C).

7. PAASIO SAID THAT HE WAS NOT INFORMED AS TO WHERE MATTER STOOD WITHIN COALITION GOVT, AND MADE POINT THAT THERE ALSO OTHER PARTIES IN GOVT. PAASIO, WHO WAS VERY GRACIOUS AND FRIENDLY DURING ENTIRE DISCUSSION, SAID THAT HE WELCOMED OPPORTUNITY

FOR CALM AND SERIOUS TALKS SUCH AS THIS WHICH OUR "DIALOGUE AGREEMENT" MADE POSSIBLE, AND PROMISED LOOK INTO MATTER AND TO INFORM HIS PARTY COLLEAGUES (READ PRIME MINISTER SORSA) OF USG VIEWS AND CONCERN.

8. PAASIO THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT IT HAD BEEN POSITION OF SDP AND GOF FOR SOME TIME THAT ONLY SOLUTION TO VIETNAM PORBLEM WAS TO BE FOUND IN NEGOTIATIONS. CONTINUED FIGHTING WITH ATTENDANT RISK OF BIG POWER INVOLVEMENT WAS DANGEROUS SITUATION, AND EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS. POLOFF AGREED, BUT POINTED OUT THAT RECORD QUITE CLEAR THAT IT DRV/PRG WHO BROKE OFF NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT THEY ONLY PARTY INSISTING ON PRECONDITIONS FOR THEIR RESUMPTION. POLOFF SAID THAT MANY OBSERVERS FELT THAT DRV/PRG NOT WILLING LIVE UP TO PARIS AGREEMENTS BECAUSE THEY KNEW THEY WOULD LOSE ELECTION AND THAT DRV AND PRG -- WHICH ONLY EXTENSION OF DRV -- HAD THEREFORE DECIDED TO TRY IMPOSE MILITARY "SOLUTION." PAASIO ADMITTED THAT DRV WAS HEAVILY INVOLVED.

9. PAASIO THEN SAID THAT SITUATION IN SOUTH VIET-NAM SEEMED UNCLEAR AND THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE WHAT WAS ACTUALLY HAPPENING. POLOFF REJOINED THAT IT DID NOT SEEM UNCLEAR TO US, POINTING OUT DRV/PRG AGRESSION AND RECENT MILITARY OCCUPATION ENTIRE PROVINCE, AT THE SAME TIME MENTIONING THAT IT WAS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT SOCIAL DEMOCRAT-AFFILIATED TRADE UNION FEDERATION SAK HAD RECEIVED MESSAGE FROM CONFEDERATION OF VIETNAMESE TRADE UNIONS (CVT) (REF E) INVITING FINNS TO COME AND SEE FOR THEMSELVES WHAT CONFIDENTIAL

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WAS GOING ON. (SAK INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY TAPIOLA HAD TOLD LABOFF ABOUT RECEIPT OF CVT MESSAGE). POLOFF ADDED THAT, AS WAS CLEAR FROM DVT AND OTHER SOURCES, SOUTH VIETNAMESE WERE IN FACT ALL THE TIME "OVTING WITH THEIR FEET" IN FAVOR OF GVN RATHER THAN PRG.

10. PAASIO CLAIMED THAT DEMARI EDITORIAL DID NOT REFLECT ANY OFFICIAL SDP STAND ON PRG QUESTION.

11. COMMENT: WE DO NOT WISH TO RAISE ANY FALSE HOPE THAT GOF WILL REFRAIN FROM SUPPORTING PRG PARTICIPATION AT LOW CONFERENCE AS RESULT OF OUR DISCUSSION WITH PAASIO. NEVERTHELESS, THE FACT THAT PAASIO HAS THE NECESSARY STATURE IN SDP TO

KEEP ITS LEFTWING FACTION IN CHECK ON THIS AND OTHER  
ISSUES, THAT HE HAS NOW HEARD THE OTHER SIDE OF  
THE STORY, AND PROMISED TO TAKE UP MATTER WITH HIS  
SDP COLLEAGUES, INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER SORSA,  
IS GRATIFYING. AND EVEN IF WE LOSE ON THIS ISSUE,  
WHICH WE HOPE WE DON'T, BY REGISTERING USG VIEWS  
WITH THE SDP ON THEIR HIGHEST LEVEL, WE HAVE ADDED  
ANOTHER CHAPTER TO OUR "DIALOGUE" WITH THE SDP,  
WHICH WILL BE USEFUL AND BENEFICIAL FOR THE FUTURE.  
KREHBIEL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, LAW OF WAR, OPPOSITION TO ADMISSION, POLITICAL LEADERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 JAN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 20502, 75 HELSINKI 185, 75 HELSINKI 187  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <09 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <12 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MEETING WITH FINNISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY CHAIRMAN PAASIO ON PRG ISSUE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, FI, VS, PRG, SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, (PAASIO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006